



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY CONTINUES COURT BATTLE TO UNBURDEN SAN DIEGO RESIDENTS OF BILLION DOLLAR PENSION DEBT

San Diego, CA: In the courtroom today, City Attorney Michael Aguirre informed Superior Court Judge Jeffrey B. Barton that the City will be filing a formal objection to last week's proposed ruling. In that ruling, Barton declared that, due to subsequent legal settlement agreements, the majority of pension benefits granted to City employees in 1996 and 2002 cannot be reversed. The objection must be filed by December 29.

"The City does not have the money to pay for these pension benefits. If they are not reduced, residents will eventually be paying through higher taxes and service cuts for the pensions of City employees whose unions brokered illegal deals for them," said City Attorney Aguirre.

The City's current unfunded employee pension debt amounts to \$1.5 billion, which equals \$6,000 for each household in the City of San Diego. That debt is one of the major reasons the City Attorney is in agreement with Superior Court Judge Barton, who strongly recommended today that City, retirement, and union officials should make an effort to settle the court case.

Concurrently, the City Attorney has begun preparations to file a petition for a peremptory writ of mandate with the Fourth District Court of Appeal to overturn the Judge's ruling.

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